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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 RSR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03
 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 AID-20
 IGA-02 /096 W

126443

R 141748Z OCT 71
 FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4403

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 4021

SUBJECT: HOLT VISIT INCITES PRESS SPECULATION AND
 COMMENTARY

1. BEGINNING OCTOBER 11, DOMINICAN PRESS HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY TO CURRENT VISIT OF MR. PAT M. HOLT, MEMBER OF STAFF OF SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. HOLT VISIT SURFACED PUBLICLY MORNING OF OCTOBER 11 WHEN SANTIAGO PAPER EL SOL, WHICH HAS CLOSE PRD TIES, PUBLISHED ARTICLE STATING THAT PAT MAYO HOLT, DESCRIBED AS AN ASSISTANT TO SENATOR FULBRIGHT, HAD ARRIVED EVENING OCTOBER 10 TO "INVESTIGATE CHARGES THAT U.S. MILITARY AND POLICE ADVISERS WERE INVOLVED IN TERRORISM" IN D.R. STORY, WHICH SEEMINGLY BASED ON PRD SOURCE, CITED FULBRIGHT'S OPPOSITION TO 1965 INTERVENTION AND HIS RECENT MEETING IN WASHINGTON WITH PRD LEADER JOSE FRANCISCO PENA GOMEZ WHO DENOUNCED TERRORISM IN D.R. AND ACCUSED U.S. MILITARY AND POLICE MISSIONS OF INVOLVEMENT IN NATIONAL POLITICS. EL NACIONAL PICKED UP HOLT STORY SAME EVENING (OCTOBER 11) IN ARTICLE CONTAINING BOSCH REACTION TO WEEKEND ASSASSINATION OF FIVE BARRIO YOUTHS (SD-3986). PAPER SAID HOLT ARRIVAL WAS SIGN THAT "POWERFUL" SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE "WILL OPEN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION OF POLITICAL CRIMES OCCURRING IN COUNTRY."

2. IN PRESS STATEMENT RELEASED EVENING OCTOBER 11, PRESIDENT BALAGUER SPECULATED THAT BRUTAL WEEKEND KILLING OF FIVE YOUTHS MAY HAVE BEEN "POLITICAL PLAN ORGANIZED BY SECTORS OF OPPOSITION" TO PROVOKE SCANDAL ON EVE OF VISIT OF "IMPORTANT REPRESENTATIVE" OF SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. HOLT VISIT

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WAS ALSO PROMINENTLY FEATURED IN ULTRA-RIGHTIST AND PRO-
GOVERNMENT PAPER EL TIEMPO WHICH CLAIMED THAT SENATE
REPRESENTATIVE WOULD RECEIVE BIASED VIEW OF SITUATION BY ONLY
CONSULTING PRD FIGURES.

3. ON OCTOBER 14 EL SOL CARRIED ACCURATE STORY THAT HOLT
HAD LUNCHED WITH ACTING PRD SEC GEN PABLO RAFAEL CASIMIRO CASTRO
AND PRD LAWYER RODOLFO MESA. CLAIMING THAT ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAD
LABELED VISIT AS "ROUTINE", EL SOL SAID IT KNEW THAT HOLT WAS
REALLY HERE "TO INVESTIGATE TERRORISM IN COUNTRY." EL
CARIBE COLUMN SAME DAY BY PEDRO GIL ITURBIDES COMMENTED ON
PUBLICITY ATTACHED TO HOLT VISIT. NOTING THAT HOLT TRIP
UNANNOUNCED AND KNOWN BY VERY FEW, COLUMNIST ASKED WHO, IN
INTERESTS OF DAMAGING GOVERNMENT, KNEW AND BY IMPLICATION LEAKED
STORY OF VISIT.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY STRONGLY SUSPECTS THAT INFORMATION
REGARDING HOLT VISIT HAS EMANATED FROM PRD. GP-3.
MELOY

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